

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: AF/W MCEATON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048065

FOR RSO

FOLLOWING REPEAT NDJAMENA 0725 SENT ACTION SECSTATE PARIS INFO
CAIRO DIA JIDDA KHARTOUM LONDON TRIPOLI TEHRAN FEB 19.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0725

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, MOPS, CD

SUBJECT: SECURITY SITUATION IN NDJAMENA

REF: STATE 044004 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING PROVIDES INFORMATION REQUESTED BY REFTEL
ON REBEL STRENGTH AND POSSIBLE COURSES OF ACTION.

1. WE ARE IN CONSTANT CONTACT WITH ENTIRE KNOWN AMERICAN
COMMUNITY IN CHAD THROUGH THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.
TO DATE WE HAVE NOT ISSUED A GENERAL WARNING, BUT HAVE BEEN
ISSUING SPECIFIC ADVICE ON MOVEMENTS AND SAFEGUARDS.

2. OUR GREATEST DANAGER AT THE MOMENT REMAINS THAT OF THE
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INNOCENT BYSTANDER WHO GETS CAUGHT IN A CROSSFIRE. REBELS
HAVE NOT KNOWN ANY TENDENDENCY TOWARDS ANTI-AMERICAN OR
ANTI-WHITE ACTIONS. THEIR PROPAGANDA HAS BEEN STRIDENTLY
ANTI-FRENCH, BUT AS THEY APPROACH POWER IN CHAD THIS WILL
PROBABLY BE TEMPERED.

3. A DETAILED L STING OF ALL AMERICANS IN CHAD IS BEING

PREPARED, AND WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS IT IS FINISHED. FOR THE MOMENT THE DEPARTMENT CAN BE REASSURED THERE ARE NO AMERICANS NOW IN BET, BILTINE, OUADDAHI, OR BATHA.

4. MY GREATEST IMMEDIATE CONCERN IS THE UNRELIABILITY OF OUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD. I AM WORRIED NOT ONLY ABOUT OUR HIGH PRIORITY TRAFFIC, BUT ABOUT OUR ROUTINE TRAFFIC WHICH MIGHT WELL CARRY INFORMATION ABOUT SOME UNSUSPECTING AMERICAN TRAVELERS WANDERING AROUND THE AREA. WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING FURTHER THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT DO TO ASSURE US MORE RELIABLE COMMUNICATIONS.

5. THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT REBEL SUCCESS IN THE NORTH WILL EMBOLDEN REBELS ELSEWHERE. RUMBLINGS IN THE EAST HAVE ALREADY STARTED AROUND ABECHÉ.

6. COMBINATION OF REBELS RALLYING TO GOVERNMENT AND GOUK. DRIVE TOWARD COORDINATION OF REBELS EFFORTS HAVE RESULTED IN A POLARIZATION OF THE REBELS TOWARDS EITHER OF THE TWO EXTREMES. THE LARGER PORTION HAVE MOVED INTO SOME FORM OF AT LEAST INFORMAL COORDINATION WITH GOUK.

7. IN THE SHORT RUN ETHNIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE REBELS WILL MAKE LITTLE DIFFERENCE. HOWEVER, IN THE LONGER RUN A TOUBOU DOMINATED GOVERNMENT IS UNTHINKABLE; THEY ARE TOO FEW
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AND TOO ATYPICAL OF CHAD.

8. STRENGTH FIGURE FOR VARIOUS REBELS GROUPS ARE BEING REFINED BY DAO AND WILL BE REPORTED SEPARATELY. FOLLOWING ARE THE ROUGH, RULE-OF-THUMB FIGURES I HAVE BEEN USING. (ALL COULD BE DOUBLED FOR A SHORT CAMPAIGN).

GOUK.	2,500
MALLOUM BOUKAR	500
HISSEN HABRE	300
EL BAGLANI	1,000
ABDARAHAM	LESS THAN 50 (NO MILITARY THREAT)

9. LOGISTICS OF GOUK. ARE LARGELY UNKNOWN, BUT OBLIGVOUSLY ADEQUATE FOR EASY MOMENT IN NORTH DESPITE HARASSMENT BY CHADIAN AIR FORCE. THIS COMBINED WITH THE SUPPLIES THEY HAVE CAPTURED AND MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO CAPTURE FROM STOCKS SET UP FOR NDJAMENA - FAYA RELIEF COLUMN, SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR AN ADVANCE ON NDJAMENA. IN ADDITION, IF CHADIAN CLAIM OF LIBYAN AIR DROPS AT FADA IS TRUE, THIS WILL HELP.

10. BELIEVE THE CHANCES OF SUCH AN ADVANCE RANGE FROM POSSIBLE

TO PROBABLE. HOWEVER, IN MAKING SUCH A PROGNOSTICATION I AM NOT ONLY JUDGING SITUATION WITHIN CHAD BUT TRYING TO OUTGUESS QADDAFFI AS WELL. IN THIS CONNECTION, FRENCH AMBASSADOR HAS TOLD ME THAT FRENCH HAVE ASKED SAUDIS TO PUT GREAT PRESSURE ON QADDAFFI TO RESTRAIN REBELS SHORT OF AN OUTRIGHT VICTORY.

11. AS NOTED IN ITEM 8 THERE ARE PROBABLY 1,500 MEN AVAILABLE TO THE REBELS IN THE EAST.

12. NDJAMENA IS BASICALLY AN ARAB CITY WITH THE ARABS OUT-NUMBERING SOUTHERNERS TWO TO ONE. THEREFORE, THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT THAT REBEL CELLS EXIST IN THE CITY.

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13. DAO WILL FURNISH DETAILS ON DEPLOYMENT OF CHADIAN FORCES, BUT AGAIN ROUGHLY OF THE ORIGINAL 5,000 MAN ARMY, 2,000 MEN HAVE BEEN LOST, 500 ARE IN THE MISSING COLUMN RETREATING FROM OUINIAGA KEBIR, 300 ARE IN CAMP AT MOUSSARU, 500 AROUND NDJAMENA, 300 IN ABECHÉ, 200 IN SAHR, AND THE REST IN SMALLER GARRISON SYSEWHERE. BRADFORD UNQUOTE VANCE

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